



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 411

LCO No. 2159

02159_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING EXEMPTION FROM RABIES VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-338 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) Each owner or keeper of a dog of the age of six months or older,
4 except dogs kept under a kennel license as provided in section 22-342,
5 shall cause such dog to be licensed in the town clerk's office in the
6 town where such dog is kept, on or before June thirtieth, annually, or
7 at such time as such dog becomes six months old, and annually
8 thereafter, on or before June thirtieth. The owner or keeper shall pay to
9 such town clerk for such license the sum of seven dollars for each
10 neutered male or spayed female dog and the sum of twelve dollars for
11 each unneutered male dog and each unspayed female dog, and one
12 additional dollar in each case as the town clerk's fee for issuing a tag
13 and license as provided in section 22-340. Two dollars from each
14 license fee collected for a neutered or spayed dog shall be deposited
15 into the Animal Population Control Fund. If an owner or keeper of a
16 dog fails to procure a license as required by this section, such owner or

17 keeper shall pay the appropriate license fee specified in this section,
18 the town clerk's fee and a penalty of one dollar for each month or
19 fraction thereof the dog remains unlicensed.

20 (b) Any owner or keeper applying for a license for a dog under
21 subsection (a) of this section, except for those owners or keepers
22 possessing a rabies vaccination exemption certificate, or a copy thereof,
23 issued pursuant to section 22-339b, as amended by this act, shall
24 submit to the town clerk a rabies certificate signed by a licensed
25 veterinarian, or a copy thereof, stating that such dog has been
26 vaccinated against rabies, the date of the vaccination and the duration
27 of the immunity provided by the vaccine. No license shall be issued
28 unless the certificate indicates that the immunity provided by the
29 vaccine is effective at the time of licensing.

30 (c) Any owner or keeper applying for a license for a dog pursuant to
31 subsection (a) of this section that has been exempted from vaccination
32 against rabies pursuant to section 22-339b, as amended by this act,
33 shall submit to the town clerk a rabies vaccination exemption
34 certificate issued by the department, or a copy thereof, in lieu of a
35 rabies certificate.

36 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) This section shall not apply to any dog which is imported
37 into this state for exhibition purposes and which does not remain in
38 this state for more than thirty days. Any person may import, from
39 another state, any licensed dog with collar, tag and rabies vaccination
40 certificate, and keep the same in this state for not more than thirty
41 days, without complying with the provisions of this section.

42 Sec. 2. Section 22-339b of the general statutes is repealed and the
43 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

44 (a) Any owner or keeper of a dog or cat of the age of three months
45 or older shall have such dog or cat vaccinated against rabies. Any
46 animal vaccinated prior to one year of age or receiving a primary
47 rabies vaccine at any age shall be considered protected for only one

48 year and shall be given a booster vaccination one year after the initial
 49 vaccination and shall be vaccinated at least every three years
 50 thereafter. Those animals revaccinated after one year of age shall be
 51 given booster vaccinations at least every three years thereafter. Proof
 52 of vaccination shall be a certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian in
 53 accordance with subsection (a) of section 22-339c, as amended by this
 54 act. [Any violation of this section shall be an infraction.]

55 (b) The State Veterinarian or the Commissioner of Agriculture, or
 56 the commissioner's designee, may grant an exemption from
 57 vaccination against rabies for a dog or cat if a licensed veterinarian has
 58 examined such animal and determined that a rabies vaccination would
 59 endanger the animal's life due to disease or other medical
 60 considerations. Such exemption shall be granted for an individual
 61 animal only after the veterinarian has consulted with the State
 62 Veterinarian, the Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's
 63 designee, and completed and submitted to the department an
 64 application for exemption from rabies vaccination on a form approved
 65 by the Department of Agriculture. After approval of such exemption,
 66 the department shall issue a rabies vaccination exemption certificate,
 67 copies of which shall be provided to the veterinarian, the owner of the
 68 dog or cat exempted from rabies vaccination and the animal control
 69 officer of the municipality in which the owner of the dog or cat resides.
 70 Certification that a dog or cat is exempt from rabies vaccination shall
 71 be valid for one year, after which time the animal shall be vaccinated
 72 against rabies or the application for exemption shall be renewed.

73 (c) Any violation of this section shall be an infraction.

74 Sec. 3. Section 22-339c of the general statutes is repealed and the
 75 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

76 (a) A certificate of rabies vaccination shall be (1) a [Form 50] form
 77 approved by the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians,
 78 (2) any form approved by the State Veterinarian, or (3) any form that
 79 has the following information regarding the vaccinated animal: (A)

80 The name and address of its owner; (B) a description of the animal
81 which specifies its species, breed, age, color or markings and sex; (C)
82 the date of the vaccination, the duration of the immunity provided by
83 the vaccination, the producer of the vaccine and the vaccine serial
84 number; (D) the rabies tag number; and (E) the signature and license
85 number of the veterinarian administering the vaccination. Such
86 certificate shall be the official proof of rabies vaccination submitted to a
87 town clerk in accordance with the provisions of section 22-338 or 22-
88 339a, as amended by this act.

89 (b) The owner or keeper of a dog or cat shall keep a certificate, or
90 copy thereof, stating that such dog or cat has been vaccinated against
91 rabies and shall make such certificate or copy available to any animal
92 control officer, regional animal control officer or municipal animal
93 control officer of any municipality for inspection.

94 (c) An antirabies clinic, upon request of any municipal animal
95 control officer or animal control officer, shall submit to such officer a
96 copy of any such certificate issued. Such copy shall be used by the
97 officer to search for unlicensed dogs in accordance with the provisions
98 of section 22-349.

99 Sec. 4. Section 22-359 of the general statutes is repealed and the
100 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

101 (a) The commissioner may make such orders for the adequate
102 confinement, control or destruction of any dog, cat or other animal as
103 he deems necessary to prevent the spread of rabies and to protect the
104 public therefrom provided, notwithstanding the provisions of section
105 22-358, as amended, a local director of health may order the
106 destruction of any unowned animal which is not currently vaccinated
107 for rabies for the purpose of rabies testing if the director finds that the
108 animal has bitten a person and the health or life of such person may be
109 threatened. Any person who fails to comply with any order made
110 under the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than one
111 hundred dollars. The commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer,

112 any animal control officer or any municipal animal control officer may
113 quarantine any animal in a public pound, veterinary hospital, kennel
114 or other building or enclosure approved by the commissioner for such
115 purpose, if in the determination of the commissioner or such officer,
116 such animal is rabid or is suspected of being rabid, or has been bitten
117 by, or may have been bitten by, or has been in contact with or exposed
118 to, a rabid animal or an animal suspected of carrying rabies or any
119 wild animal as defined in subsection (d) of this section. The length of
120 such quarantine period shall be determined by the commissioner or
121 the State Veterinarian who shall take into account the age, general
122 health and vaccination history of the animal as well as current
123 accepted veterinary practices. Any suspected or confirmed case of
124 rabies shall be reported to the commissioner by a local director of
125 health or board of health or any veterinarian within twenty-four hours
126 of receipt of such information.

127 (b) Any dog, cat or other animal held in quarantine which is
128 clinically diagnosed as rabid by two licensed veterinarians, at least one
129 of whom shall be engaged in private practice, shall be humanely
130 euthanized immediately without prior notice to the owner or keeper of
131 same. No person who kills any animal in accordance with this
132 subsection shall be held criminally or civilly liable therefor.

133 (c) Any animal, other than a dog, which is quarantined pursuant to
134 this section which is not claimed by its owner or keeper within the
135 period of such quarantine may be sold by the municipal animal control
136 officer, if he finds that the animal is in good health. The animal may
137 only be sold as a pet to a person who satisfies the officer that the
138 animal will be given a good home and proper care. The municipal
139 animal control officer may retain possession of such animal for such
140 additional period of time as he may deem advisable in order to place
141 such animal. Any animal, other than a dog, which is quarantined
142 pursuant to this section which is not claimed by its owner or keeper
143 within the period of such quarantine and which is not sold by the
144 municipal animal control officer within five days of the expiration of

145 such quarantine, may be disposed of at the direction of the State
 146 Veterinarian. No person who disposes of any animal in accordance
 147 with this subsection shall be held criminally or civilly liable therefor.

148 (d) The commissioner, any animal control officer or any state or
 149 municipal police officer may immediately kill any wild animal which
 150 is displaying behavior which causes the commissioner or such officer
 151 to reasonably conclude that such animal is rabid. For purposes of this
 152 subsection, "wild animal" means any mammal which is *ferae naturae*
 153 or wild by nature.

154 (e) The commissioner shall institute such measures as the
 155 commissioner deems necessary to prevent the transmission of rabies
 156 associated with animals in public settings, including, but not limited
 157 to, fairs, shows, exhibitions, petting zoos, riding stables, farm tours, pet
 158 shops and educational exhibits.

159 (f) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
 160 chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection (e) of this
 161 section. Such regulations may include requirements for the vaccination
 162 of animals against rabies, identification of animals, identification of
 163 owners or keepers of such animals, animal enclosures, posting of
 164 public advisories, reporting of rabies exposure incidents, records
 165 deemed necessary and proper relating to the vaccination of animals
 166 against rabies, and any other methods determined by the
 167 commissioner to prevent the transmission of rabies. Such regulations
 168 may consider the species of animal, the characteristics of the public
 169 settings and the nature and type of contact the public may have with
 170 animals.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	22-338
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	22-339b
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	22-339c

Sec. 4	October 1, 2006	22-359
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Statement of Purpose:

To provide an exemption from state rabies vaccination requirements for certain pets if the exemption is requested by a licensed veterinarian and to protect the public health from possible rabies exposure in instances where the public is exposed to domestic animals in public settings.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]